

The Adelie Penguin's Adventure

I woke up in the morning and realized I wasn't where I was supposed to be. Where were the ice bergs? Where was the pure white snow? Instead, I saw rocks covered with moss, and huge trees with vines hanging down from the branches. I looked at the ground and didn't see the icy snow, but I saw icky brown mud. I heard the cries of many different animals and began to wonder if I was safe standing all out in the open.

I decided that I should try to find some shelter to get away from the noises that I could not identify. I walked calmly through the trees for about ten minutes when I sensed that something around me was following me. I stopped walking to listen to the noises around me. I heard a tiny growl in the distance and this was a sign for me to start running. I began to run as fast as I can; but being a penguin, it wasn't very fast. I fell down and heard the ferocious beast coming closer. I saw a tree that had fallen down. There was crack in it that looked like it was big enough for me to fit through. I crawled towards the tree and squeezed myself through the tiny hole. The animal clawed at the hole; and when it decided that it could not fit, it decided to just sit outside the hole and wait for me to come out.

I trembled inside of the tree and watched the creature's eyes following my every movement in the cramped space. I was trying to keep my eyes on the monster waiting for me, but my eyelids kept drooping down. Before I knew it, I was waking up from a dreamless sleep. How long have I been in this tree? I looked through the crack, and the animal wasn't there anymore, but it was still morning. Did I sleep for entire day in this tree? I got out of the tree and looked at my surroundings. I had no idea how to tell what time is it.

I decided that I had better go find a better shelter before the animal returned. I began walking again, but then I noticed that I was walking along a mud trail that was going downhill. Maybe I can ride down on my stomach like I do on snow. I laid down on my stomach and slid down the mud. While I slid down the mud, it kind of felt like I was back home in Antarctica; but that feeling soon disappeared when I

stood back up. The whole anterior side of my body was covered with mud. I tried to wipe the mud off with leaves I found scattered on the floor, but that just made it worse.

Suddenly, my stomach started grumbling. Where am I supposed to find food? I decided to keep on walking, hoping that I would find a river or a lake of some kind to wash off my body and find some food. After about half an hour, I heard the noise of running water. I waddled in the direction of the noise too tired to attempt to run. The first thing I did when I got to the river was jumped into the water. It felt so nice to be able to swim again even if the water was warmer than I was used to. I saw a fish swimming and the water dove straight for it. I caught the fish with ease and smiled because my day was finally starting lighten up.

Suddenly, I was grabbed by something and blindfolded. I tried to wiggle my way out of its grasp, but I was just too tired to get free. When the blindfold was finally taken off, the strange creature that grabbed me had placed me on a table. I looked at the thing before me and realized that it was a human. I had heard about humans before in the penguin community. I looked at the person in front of me with a confused look when he said, "There you are, little guy! We have been looking for you for a few hours!"

"One of the guys that was unloading the new animals was being careless and accidentally put this penguin in the jungle exhibit," he said to someone behind him. "Can you bring him to the penguin exhibit?"